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(54) **HIGH ELECTRON MOBILITY TRANSISTOR AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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H01L 29/2003; H01L 29/7787; H01L
29/66462; H01L 29/1066

USPC 257/194, E29.246, E29.247, E29.248,
257/E21.403

See application file for complete search history.

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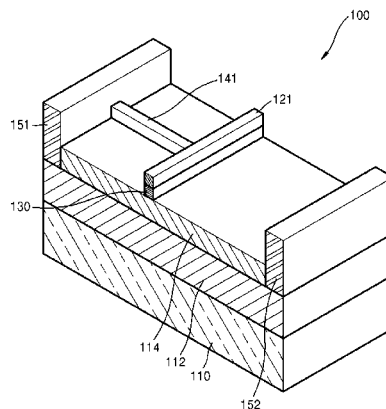
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P.L.C.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Provided are a high electron mobility transistor (HEMT) and a method of manufacturing the HEMT. The HEMT includes: a channel layer comprising a first semiconductor material; a channel supply layer comprising a second semiconductor material and generating two-dimensional electron gas (2DEG) in the channel layer; a source electrode and a drain electrode separated from each other in the channel supply layer; at least one depletion forming unit that is formed on the channel supply layer and forms a depletion region in the 2DEG; at least one gate electrode that is formed on the at least one depletion forming unit; at least one bridge that connects the at least one depletion forming unit and the source electrode; and a contact portion that extends from the at least one bridge under the source electrode.

17 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets



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<i>H01L 29/20</i> | (2006.01)
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FIG. 1

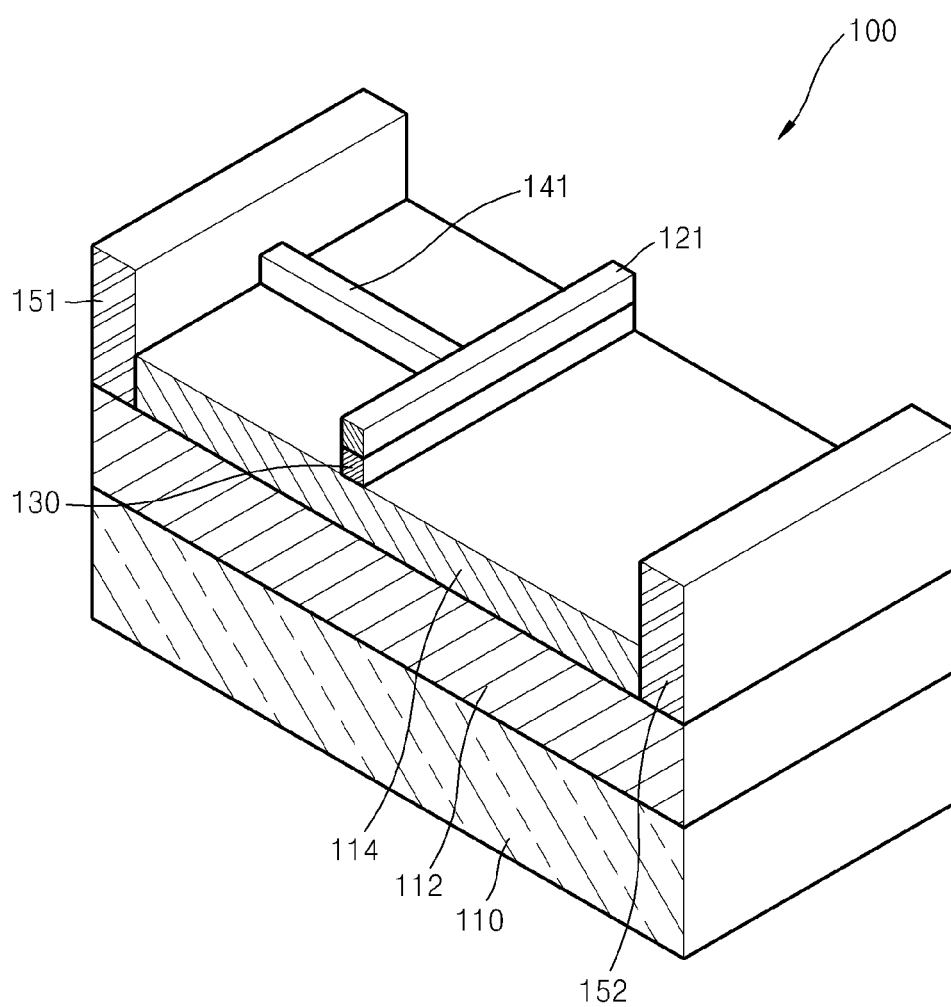


FIG. 2

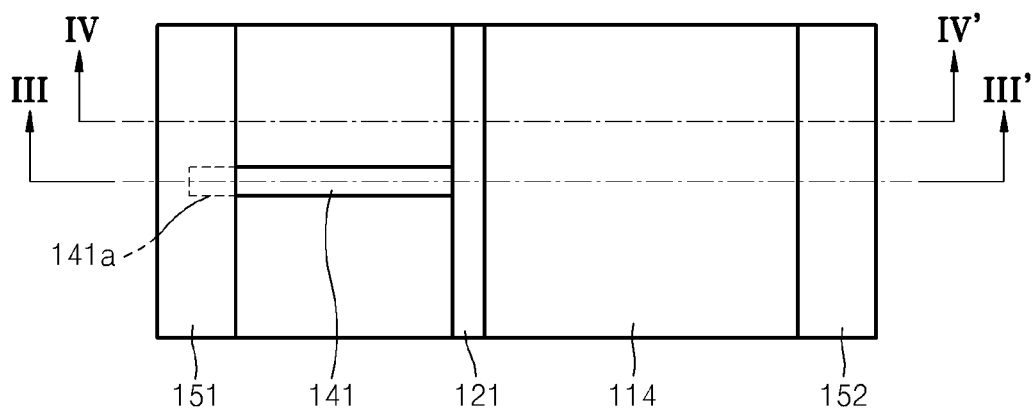


FIG. 3

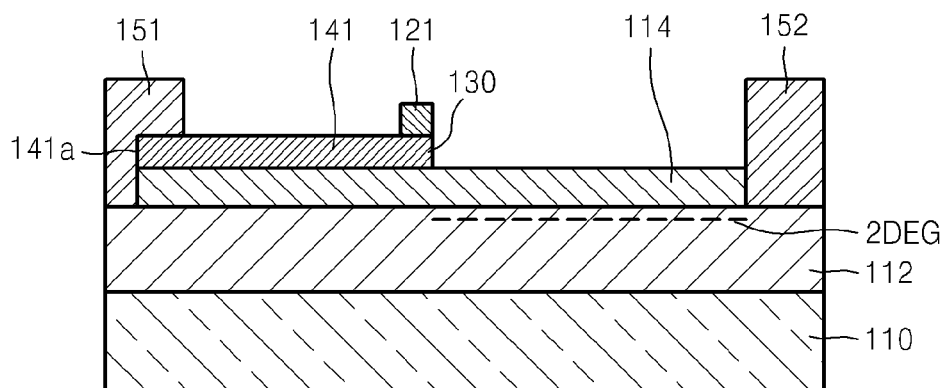


FIG. 4

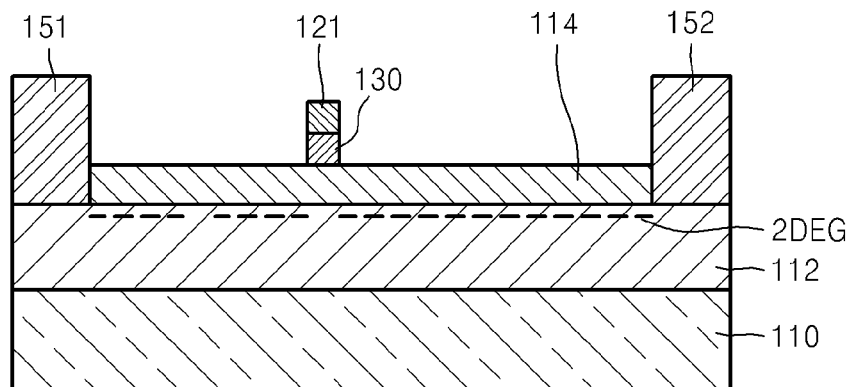


FIG. 5

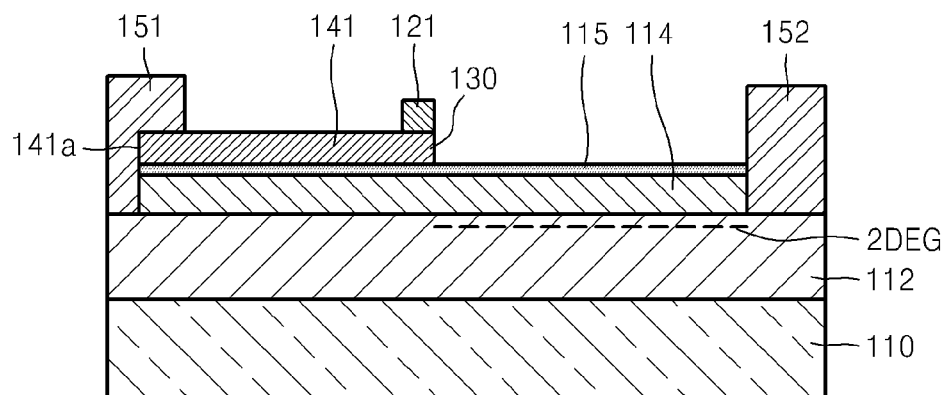


FIG. 6

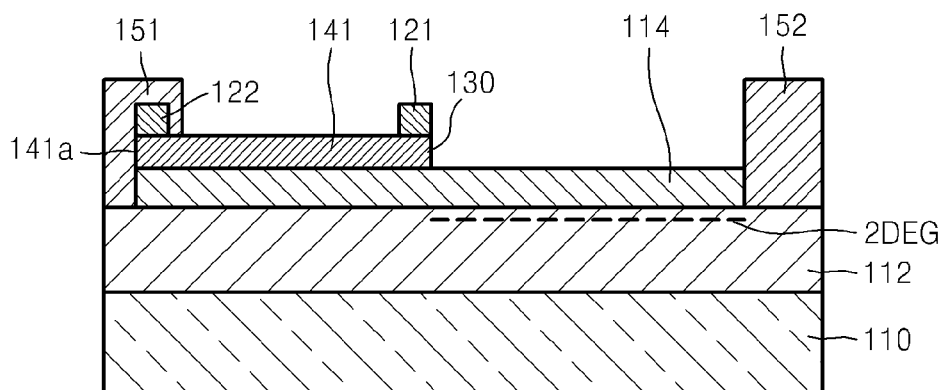


FIG. 7

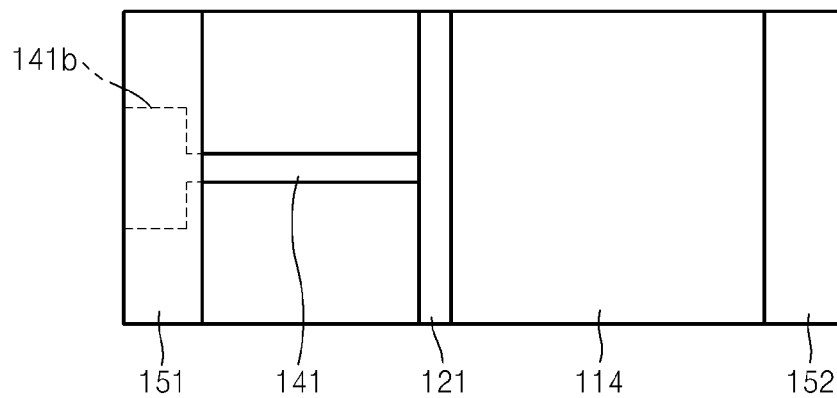


FIG. 8

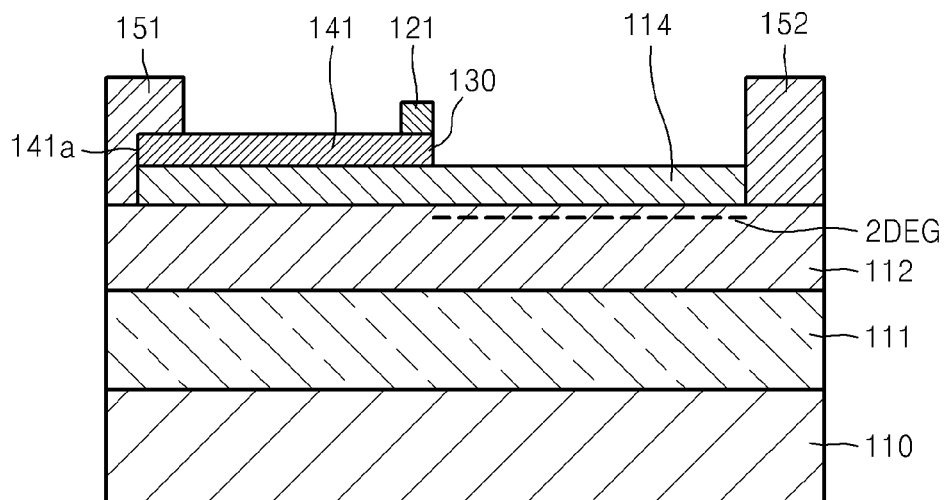


FIG. 9

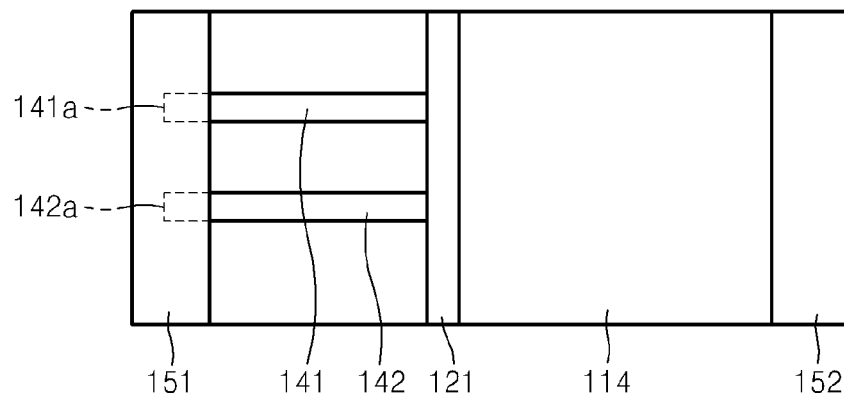


FIG. 10

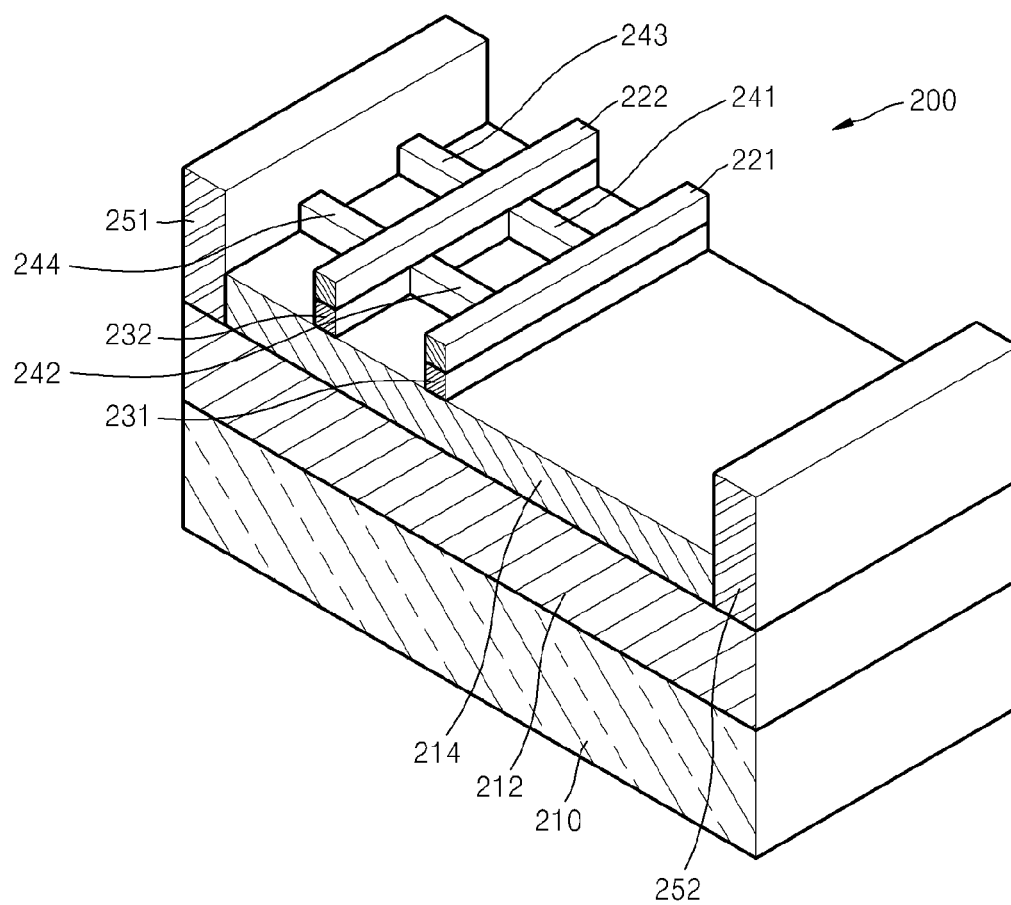


FIG. 11

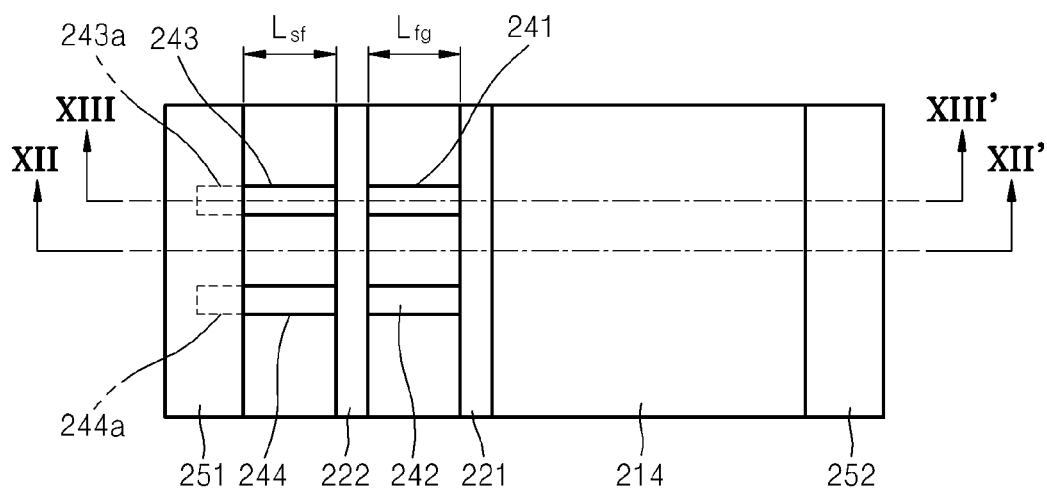


FIG. 12

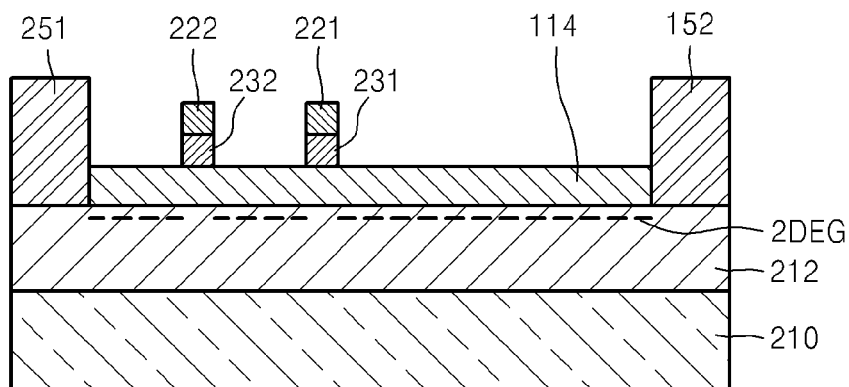


FIG. 13

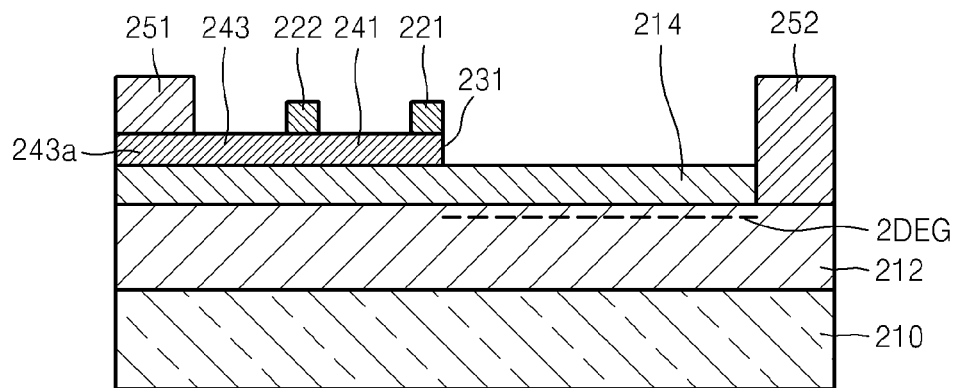


FIG. 14A

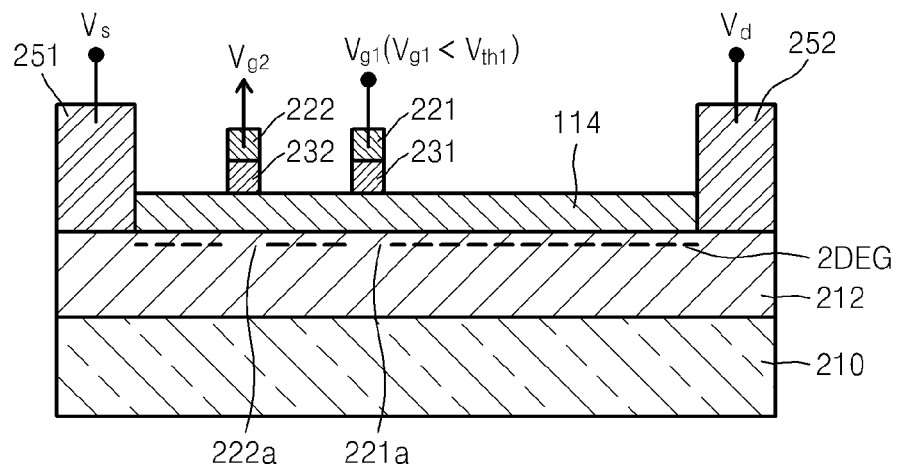


FIG. 14B

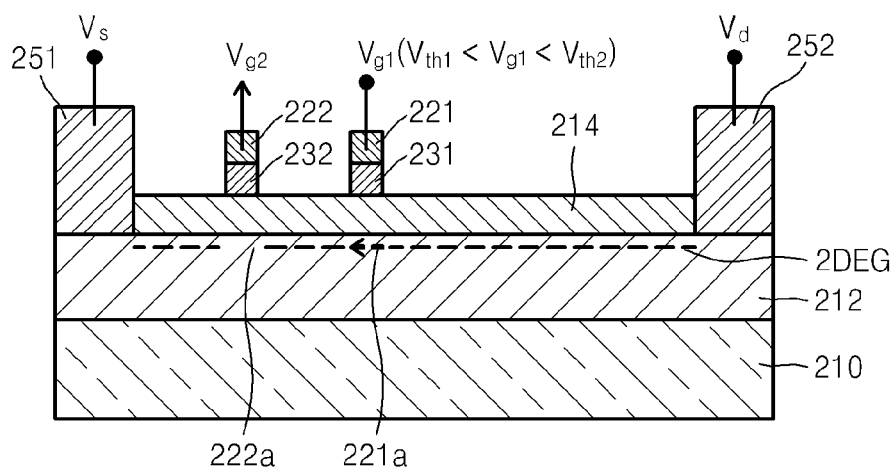


FIG. 14C

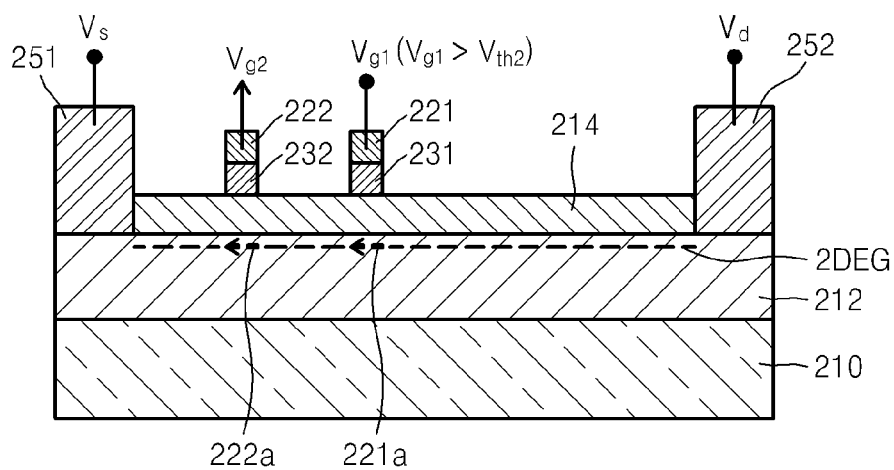


FIG. 15

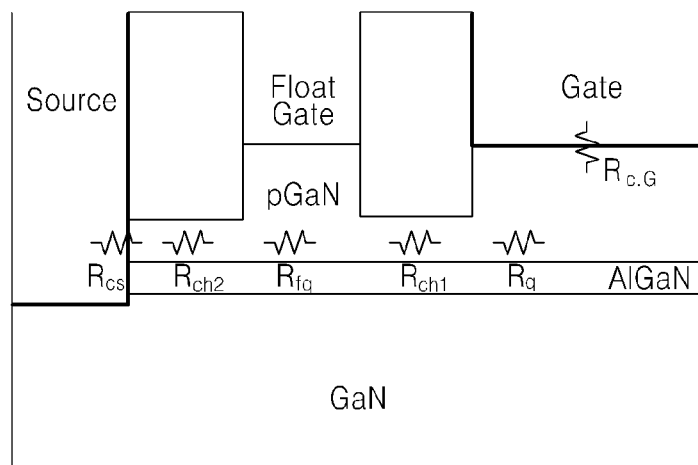


FIG. 16

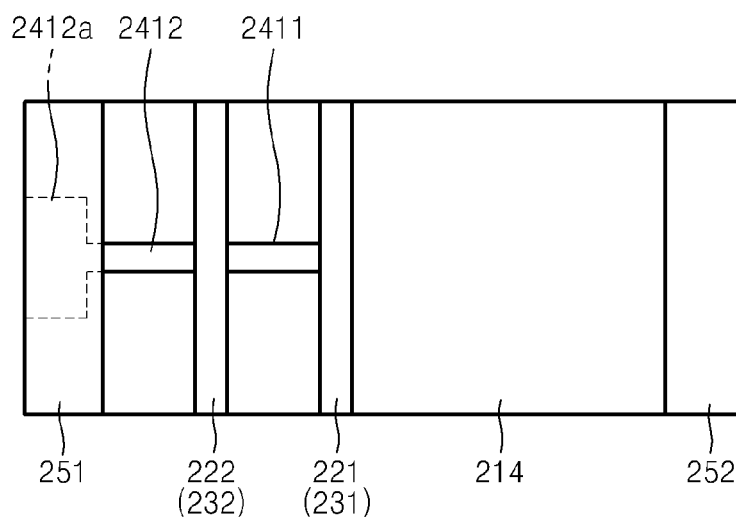


FIG. 17

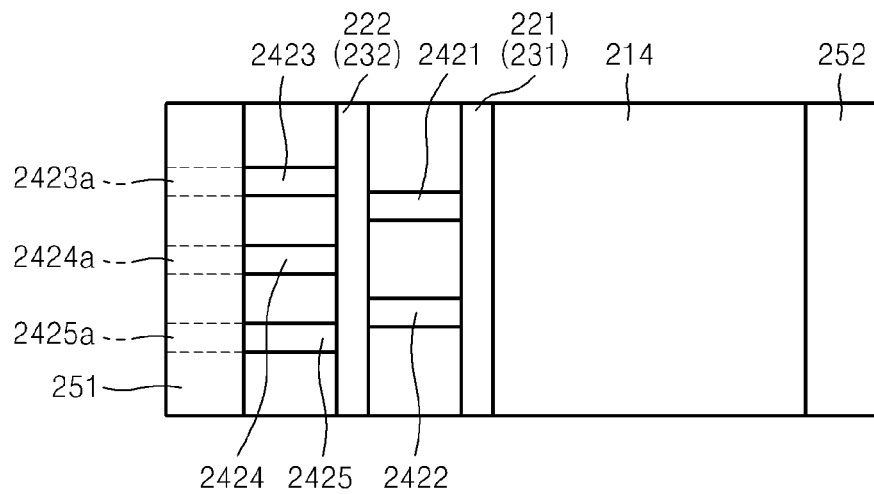


FIG. 18

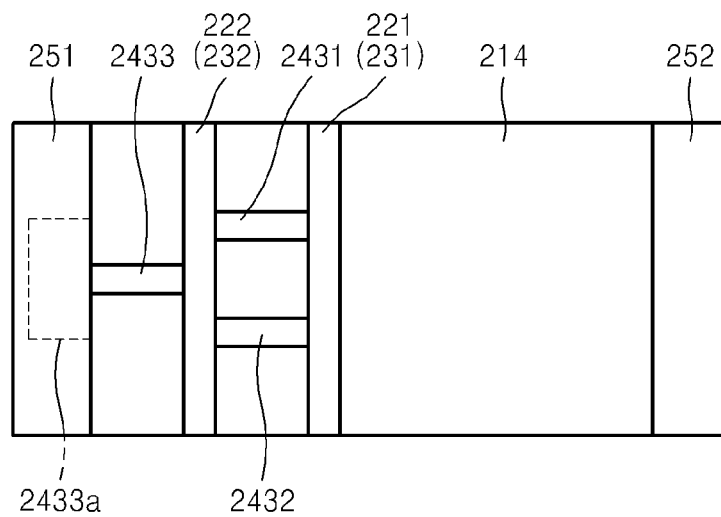


FIG. 19

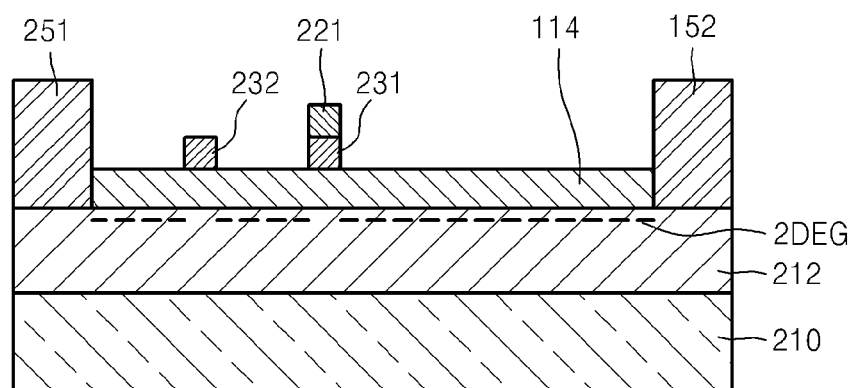


FIG. 20

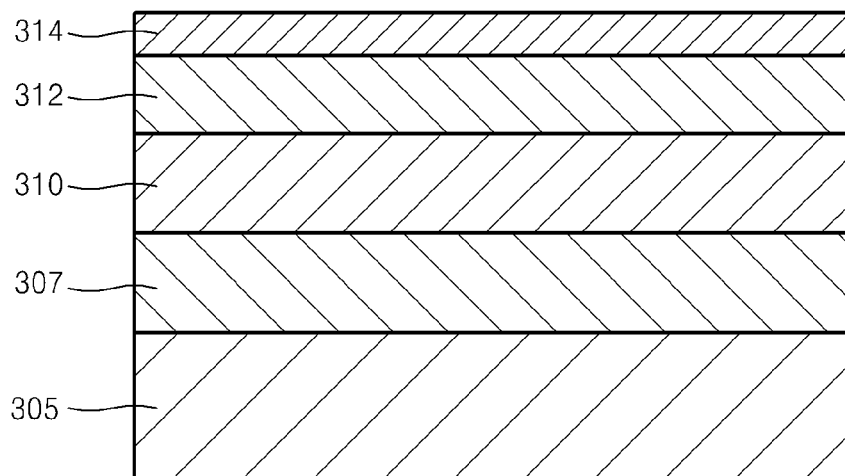


FIG. 21

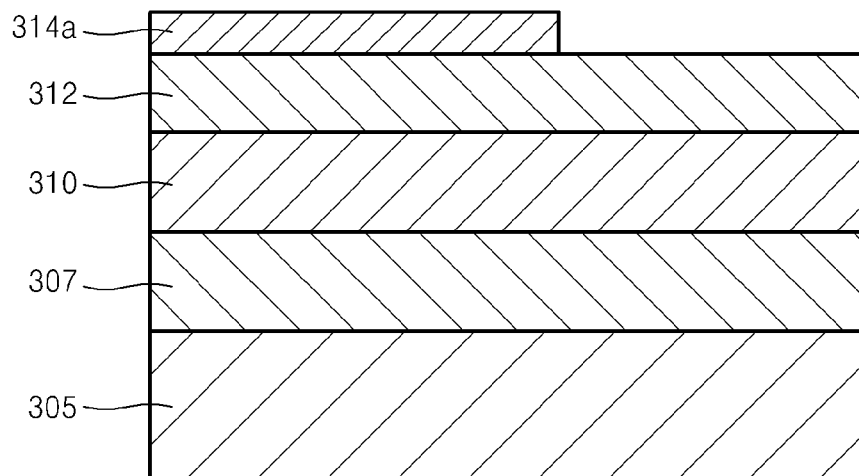


FIG. 22

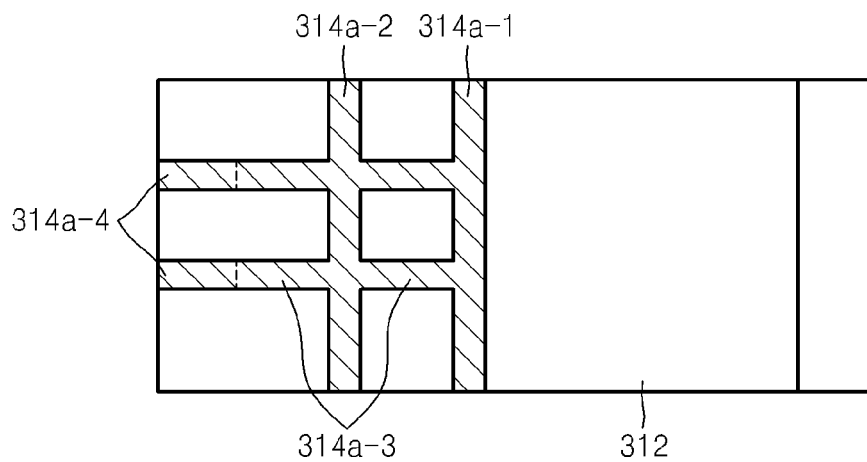


FIG. 23

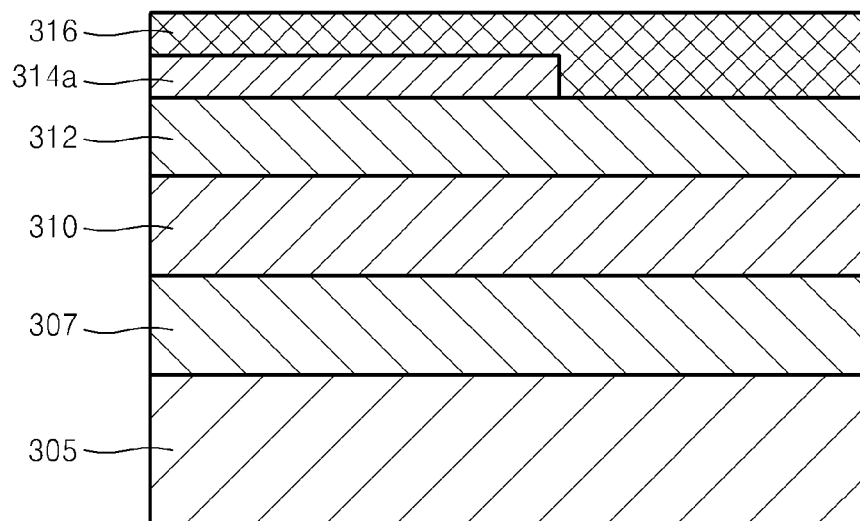


FIG. 24

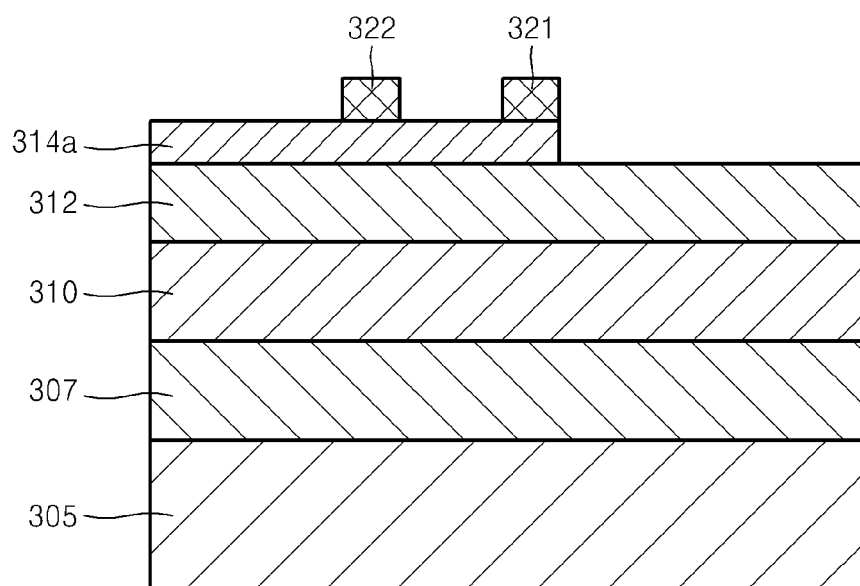


FIG. 25

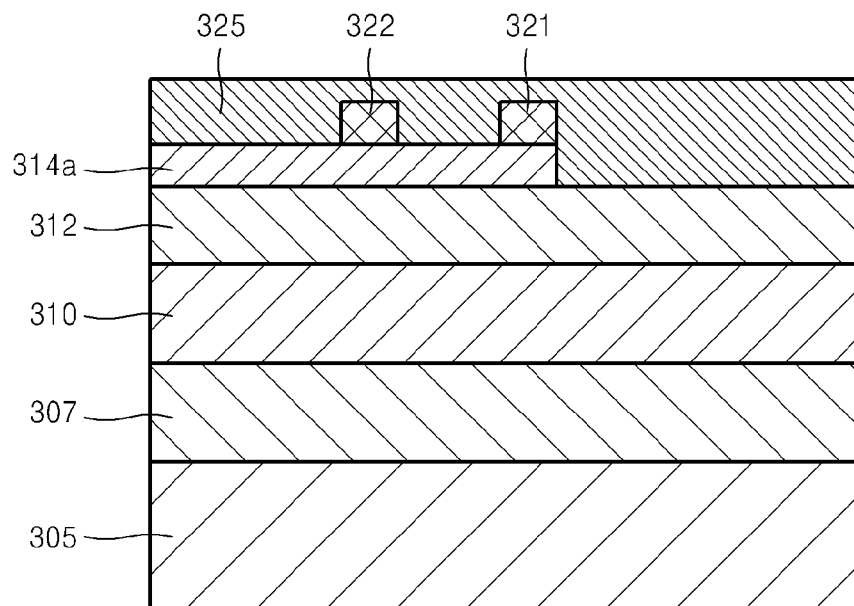


FIG. 26

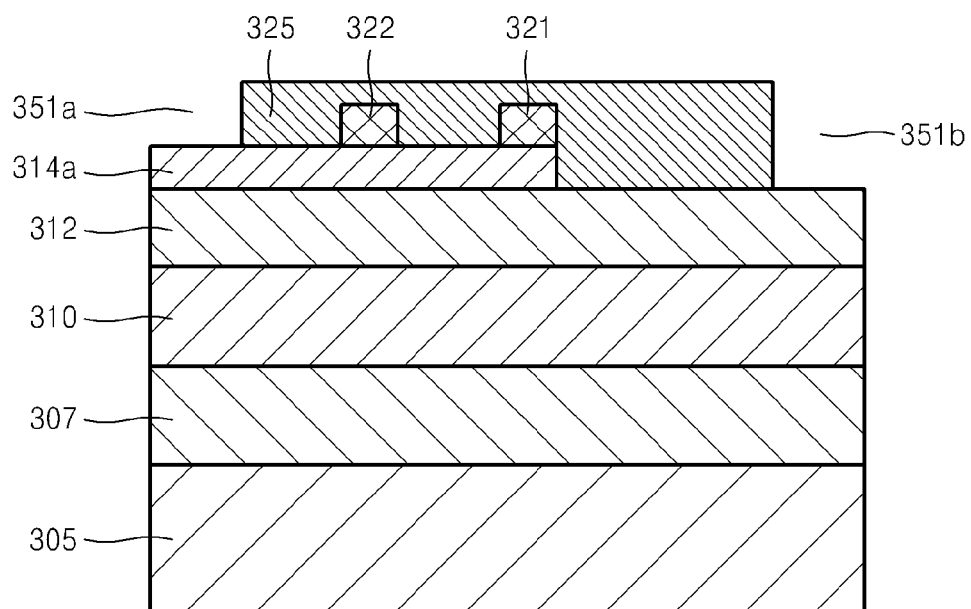


FIG. 27

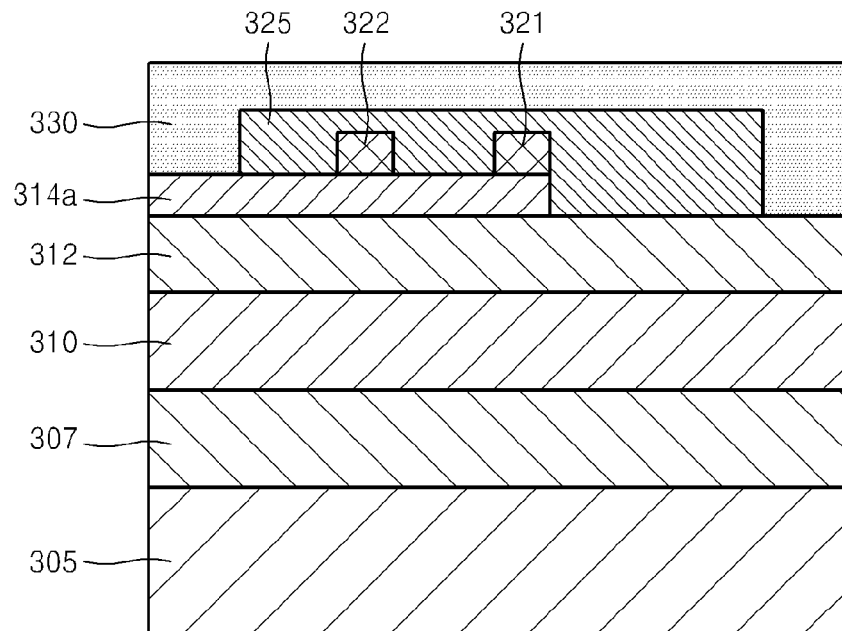
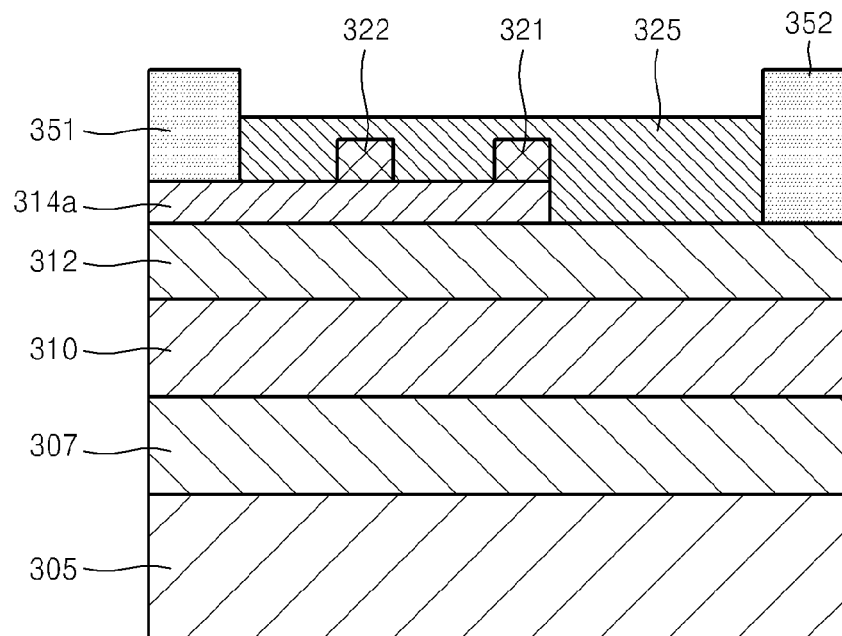


FIG. 28



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HIGH ELECTRON MOBILITY TRANSISTOR AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 to Korean Patent Application No. 10-2013-0049058, filed on May 1, 2013, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.

BACKGROUND

1. Field

The present disclosure relates to semiconductor devices and/or methods of manufacturing the same, and more particularly, to high electron mobility transistors (HEMTs) and/or methods of manufacturing the same.

2. Description of the Related Art

A nitride semiconductor device may be used, for example, as a power device used in power control. In a power converting system, the efficiency of the power device may decide the entire system efficiency. An example of the power device is a metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistor (MOSFET) or an insulated gate bipolar transistor (IGBT), which is based on silicon. However, due to the limitations in the properties of silicon and the manufacturing processes therefor, it is difficult to increase the efficiency of a silicon-based power device. Another example of the power device is a power device using a III-V compound semiconductor. An example of this power device is a high electron mobility transistor (HEMT), which uses a heterojunction structure of a compound semiconductor.

A HEMT includes semiconductor layers having different electric polarization characteristics. A semiconductor layer having a relatively large polarizability may induce two-dimensional electron gas (2DEG) in another semiconductor layer bonded to the semiconductor layer. The 2DEG is used as a channel, and thus, the HEMT may have a high electron mobility. Also, the HEMT includes a compound semiconductor having a wide band gap. Thus, a breakdown voltage of the HEMT may be higher than that of a typical transistor. The breakdown voltage of the HEMT may increase proportionally to a thickness of a compound semiconductor layer including 2DEG, such as a GaN layer.

SUMMARY

Provided are high electron mobility transistors (HEMTs) having normally-off characteristics and/or a reduced dispersion of a threshold voltage.

Provided are methods of manufacturing the HEMTs having normally-off characteristics and/or a reduced dispersion of a threshold voltage.

Additional aspects will be set forth in part in the description which follows and, in part, will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of example embodiments.

According to an example embodiment, a high electron mobility transistor (HEMT) includes: a channel supply layer on a channel layer, the channel layer including a first semiconductor material, the channel supply layer including a second semiconductor material, and the channel supply layer configured to generate a two-dimensional electron gas (2DEG) in the channel layer; a source electrode and a drain electrode separated from each other and connected to the

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channel supply layer; a depletion forming unit on the channel supply layer, the depletion forming unit configured to form a depletion region in the 2DEG; a gate electrode on the depletion forming unit; a bridge that connects the source electrode to the depletion forming unit; and a contact portion that extends from the bridge to under the source electrode.

In some example embodiments, a width of the contact portion may be the same or different than a width of the bridge.

In some example embodiments, the HEMT may include a plurality of bridges, the plurality of bridges may include a first bridge and a second bridge between the depletion forming unit and the source electrode; the HEMT may include a plurality of contact portions, the plurality of contact portions may include a first contact portion and a second contact portion, the first contact portion may extend from an end portion of the first bridge to under the source electrode, the second contact portion may extend from an end portion of the second bridge to under the source electrode, and the first contact portion and the first bridge may be the contact portion and the bridge of the contact portion that extends from the bridge to under the source electrode.

In some example embodiments, the HEMT may include a plurality of depletion forming units on the channel supply layer and a plurality of gate electrodes. The plurality of depletion forming units may include a first depletion forming unit and a second depletion forming unit that are separated from each other, and the plurality of gate electrodes may include a first gate electrode on the first depletion forming unit and a second gate electrode on the second depletion forming unit. The second gate electrode and the second depletion forming unit may be the gate electrode and the depletion forming unit of the gate electrode on the depletion forming unit.

In some example embodiments, the HEMT may include a plurality of bridges on the channel supplying layer and a plurality of contact portions. The plurality of bridges may include a first bridge, a second bridge and a third bridge. The plurality of contact portions may include a first contact portion and a second contact portion. The second contact portion and the second bridge may be the contact portion and the bridge of the contact portion that extends from the bridge to under the source electrode. The third bridge may connect the first depletion forming unit to the second depletion forming unit. The first bridge may connect the second depletion forming unit to the source electrode. The first contact portion may extend from the first bridge to under the source electrode.

In some example embodiments, the second gate electrode may be a floating electrode. The first gate electrode may be configured to induce a second gate voltage in the second gate electrode if a first gate voltage is applied to the first gate electrode.

In some example embodiments, the second gate voltage may be determined by the first gate voltage applied to the first gate electrode, an interval between the first gate electrode and the second gate electrode, and an interval between the second gate electrode and the source electrode.

In some example embodiments, the HEMT may further include a thin film formed between the source electrode and the contact portion.

In some example embodiments, the bridge may be in the form of a strip.

In some example embodiments, the first semiconductor material may be a GaN-based material.

In some example embodiments, the first semiconductor material may include GaN, InGaN or AlGaN and the first semiconductor material may be undoped or doped with an n-type material.

In some example embodiments, the second semiconductor material may include a nitride including at least one of Al, Ga, and In.

In some example embodiments, the second semiconductor material may include at least one of GaN, AlGaIn, AlInN, and AlInGaIn.

In some example embodiments, the second semiconductor material may be doped with an n-type material.

In some example embodiments, the channel supply layer may include a plurality of layers according to an Al content or an In content.

In some example embodiments, the HEMT may further include a buffer layer, the channel layer may be on the buffer layer, and the buffer layer may include at least one of a GaN layer, an AlGaIn layer, an AlIn layer, and an InN layer.

In some example embodiments, the depletion forming unit may include a p-type semiconductor material.

In some example embodiments, the depletion forming unit may include a III-V nitride semiconductor material.

In some example embodiments, the depletion forming unit may be one of a p-type GaN and a p-type AlGaIn.

In some example embodiments, a single body may include the depletion forming unit, the bridge, and the contact portion.

In some embodiments, a passivation layer may be on the channel supply layer.

In some example embodiments, the passivation layer may be one of GaN, AlGaIn, AlIn, InN, InGaIn, and InAlGaIn, and the passivation layer may be one of undoped and doped with a p-type material.

According to another example embodiment, a method of manufacturing a high electron mobility transistor (HEMT) includes: forming a channel layer and a channel supply layer stacked together; forming a first layer on the channel supply layer; forming a depletion unit on the channel supply layer by patterning and etching the first layer, the depletion unit including a depletion forming unit, a bridge extending from a side of the depletion forming unit, and a contact portion; forming a second layer on the depletion unit; forming a gate electrode on the depletion forming unit by etching the second layer; forming a source electrode on the contact portion, the source electrode spaced apart from a first side of the gate electrode; and forming a drain electrode connected to the channel supply layer, the drain electrode spaced apart from at a second side of the gate electrode.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

These and/or other aspects will become apparent and more readily appreciated from the following description of non-limiting embodiments, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which like reference characters refer to the same parts throughout the different views. The drawings are not necessarily to scale, emphasis instead being placed upon illustrating the principles of example embodiments. In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a schematic perspective view illustrating a high electron mobility transistor (HEMT) according to an example embodiment;

FIG. 2 is a plan view illustrating the HEMT illustrated in FIG. 1 according to an example embodiment;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the HEMT of FIG. 2 cut along line III-III' according to an example embodiment;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the HEMT of FIG. 2 cut along line IV-IV' according to an example embodiment;

FIG. 5 illustrates the HEMT illustrated in FIG. 1 in which a passivation layer is further formed, according to an example embodiment;

FIG. 6 illustrates the HEMT illustrated in FIG. 1 in which a gate electrode is further formed under a source electrode, according to an example embodiment;

FIG. 7 illustrates a contact portion of the HEMT illustrated in FIG. 1 according to another example embodiment;

FIG. 8 illustrates the HEMT illustrated in FIG. 1 in which a buffer layer is further formed, according to an example embodiment;

FIG. 9 illustrates the HEMT illustrated in FIG. 1 in which patterns of a bridge and a contact portion are modified, according to an example embodiment;

FIG. 10 is a schematic perspective view illustrating a HEMT according to another example embodiment;

FIG. 11 is a plan view illustrating the HEMT of FIG. 10 according to an example embodiment;

FIG. 12 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the HEMT cut along line XII-XII' of FIG. 11 according to an example embodiment;

FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the HEMT cut along line XIII-XIII' of FIG. 11 according to an example embodiment;

FIGS. 14A through 14C are schematic views for explaining an operation of the HEMT of FIG. 10, according to an example embodiment;

FIG. 15 is a graph that schematically illustrates a relationship between a voltage and resistance of a HEMT having a double gate structure, according to an example embodiment;

FIGS. 16 through 18 illustrate modified examples of patterns of a bridge and a contact portion of the HEMT illustrated in FIG. 10, according to some example embodiments;

FIG. 19 illustrates the HEMT of FIG. 12 from which a second gate electrode is removed; and

FIGS. 20 through 28 illustrate a method of manufacturing a HEMT according to an example embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Example embodiments will now be described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which some example embodiments are shown. Example embodiments, may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as being limited to the embodiments set forth herein; rather, these example embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of inventive concepts to those of ordinary skill in the art. In the drawings, the thicknesses of layers and regions are exaggerated for clarity. Like reference numerals in the drawings denote like elements, and thus their description may be omitted.

It will be understood that when an element is referred to as being “connected” or “coupled” to another element, it can be directly connected or coupled to the other element or intervening elements may be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being “directly connected” or “directly coupled” to another element, there are no intervening elements present. As used herein the term “and/or” includes any and all combinations of one or more of the associated listed items. Other words used to describe the relationship between elements or layers should be interpreted in a like fashion (e.g., “between” versus “directly between,” “adjacent” versus “directly adjacent,” “on” versus “directly on”).

It will be understood that, although the terms “first,” “second,” etc. may be used herein to describe various elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections, these elements,

components, regions, layers and/or sections should not be limited by these terms. These terms are only used to distinguish one element, component, region, layer or section from another element, component, region, layer or section. Thus, a first element, component, region, layer or section discussed below could be termed a second element, component, region, layer or section without departing from the teachings of example embodiments.

Spatially relative terms, such as “beneath,” “below,” “lower,” “above,” “upper” and the like, may be used herein for ease of description to describe one element or feature’s relationship to another element(s) or feature(s) as illustrated in the figures. It will be understood that the spatially relative terms are intended to encompass different orientations of the device in use or operation in addition to the orientation depicted in the figures. For example, if the device in the figures is turned over, elements described as “below” or “beneath” other elements or features would then be oriented “above” the other elements or features. Thus, the exemplary term “below” can encompass both an orientation of above and below. The device may be otherwise oriented (rotated 90 degrees or at other orientations) and the spatially relative descriptors used herein interpreted accordingly.

The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting of example embodiments. As used herein, the singular forms “a,” “an” and “the” are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It will be further understood that the terms “comprises,” “comprising,” “includes” and/or “including,” if used herein, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components and/or groups thereof. Expressions such as “at least one of,” when preceding a list of elements, modify the entire list of elements and do not modify the individual elements of the list.

Example embodiments are described herein with reference to cross-sectional illustrations that are schematic illustrations of idealized embodiments (and intermediate structures) of example embodiments. As such, variations from the shapes of the illustrations as a result, for example, of manufacturing techniques and/or tolerances, are to be expected. Thus, example embodiments should not be construed as limited to the particular shapes of regions illustrated herein but are to include deviations in shapes that result, for example, from manufacturing. For example, an implanted region illustrated as a rectangle may have rounded or curved features and/or a gradient of implant concentration at its edges rather than a binary change from implanted to non-implanted region. Likewise, a buried region formed by implantation may result in some implantation in the region between the buried region and the surface through which the implantation takes place. Thus, the regions illustrated in the figures are schematic in nature and their shapes are not intended to illustrate the actual shape of a region of a device and are not intended to limit the scope of example embodiments.

Unless otherwise defined, all terms (including technical and scientific terms) used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which example embodiments belong. It will be further understood that terms, such as those defined in commonly-used dictionaries, should be interpreted as having a meaning that is consistent with their meaning in the context of the relevant art and will not be interpreted in an idealized or overly formal sense unless expressly so defined herein.

FIG. 1 is a schematic perspective view illustrating a high electron mobility transistor (HEMT) 100 according to an example embodiment. FIG. 2 is a plan view illustrating the HEMT 100 illustrated in FIG. 1. FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the HEMT 100 cut along line III-III' of FIG. 2 cut along line. FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the HEMT 100 cut along line IV-IV' of FIG. 2.

Referring to FIGS. 1 through 4, the HEMT 100 includes a channel layer 112 and a channel supply layer 114 on the channel layer 112. A substrate 110 may be disposed under the channel layer 112. The substrate 110 may include, for example, sapphire, Si, SiC, or GaN. However, the substrate 110 is not limited thereto, and it may also be formed of other materials. The channel layer 112 may include a first semiconductor material. The first semiconductor may be a III-V compound semiconductor, but is not limited thereto. For example, the channel layer 112 may be a GaN-based material layer. For example, the channel layer 112 may be a GaN layer, an InGaN layer, or an AlGaN layer. The channel layer 112 may be undoped or may be doped with an n-type material. However, the channel layer 112 is not limited thereto and may be formed of any material layer from which two-dimensional electron gas (2DEG) may be generated, and the material layer may be different from a semiconductor layer. In the channel layer 112, a 2DEG layer may be formed by, for example, spontaneous polarization (P_{SP}) and piezo-polarization (P_{PE}) due to tensile strain.

For example, the channel layer 112 may be a GaN layer. In this case, the channel layer 112 may be an undoped GaN layer, and may also be a GaN layer doped with desired (and/or alternatively predetermined) impurities according to circumstances. A GaN-based semiconductor may have excellent properties, such as a large energy band gap, high thermal and chemical stability, and high electron saturation speed ($\sim 3 \times 10^7$ cm/sec), and thus, it may be used not only in an optical device but also in a high-frequency and high-output electronic device. An electronic device using a GaN-based semiconductor may have various characteristics, such as a high breakdown field effect ($\sim 3 \times 10^6$ V/cm), a high maximum current density, stable high-temperature operating characteristics, and a high thermal conductivity. In the case of a HEMT that uses a GaN-based hetero-junction structure, band-discontinuity between a channel layer and a channel supply layer is relatively large so that electrons may be concentrated at a bonding interface at a high density, thus, increasing electron mobility.

The channel supply layer 114 may cause 2DEG to be generated in the channel layer 112. The 2DEG may be formed in a portion of the channel layer 112 that is below an interface between the channel layer 112 and the channel supply layer 114. The channel supply layer 114 may include a second semiconductor material that is different from the first semiconductor material of the channel layer 112. The second semiconductor material may be different from the first semiconductor material in terms of at least one of polarizability, energy band gap, and lattice constant. For example, at least one of polarizability and energy band gap of the second semiconductor material may be greater than a corresponding property of the first semiconductor material.

The channel supply layer 114 may include a nitride including at least one of, for example, Al, Ga, and In, and may have a single layer structure or a multi-layer structure. For example, the channel supply layer 114 may be at least one of an AlN layer, an AlGaN layer, an AlInN layer, an AlGaInN layer, and a combination of these. However, the channel supply layer 114 is not limited thereto. The channel supply layer 114 may be an undoped layer or may also be a layer doped

with desired (and/or alternatively predetermined) impurities. A thickness of the channel supply layer 114 may be, for example, several tens of nm or less. For example, the channel supply layer 114 may have a thickness of about 50 nm or less, but is not limited thereto.

As illustrated in FIG. 5, a passivation layer 115 may be further formed on the channel supply layer 114. The passivation layer 115 may be formed of a nitride including at least one of Al, Ga, and In. For example, the passivation layer 115 may be formed of GaN, AlGa_N, AlN, InN, InGa_N, and InAlGa_N. The passivation layer 115 may be undoped or may be doped with a p-type material. The passivation layer 115 may reduce or prevent damage to the channel layer 112 and the channel supply layer 114 in a process in which the channel layer 112 and the channel supply layer 114 are stacked. The passivation layer 115 may have a thickness of about 30 nm or less, but it is not limited thereto. The passivation layer 115 may be completely removed during manufacturing a semiconductor device, or a portion thereof may be left.

A source electrode 151 and a drain electrode 152 may be formed on the channel layer 112 at both sides of the channel supply layer 114. The source electrode 151 and the drain electrode 152 may be electrically connected to the 2DEG. The 2DEG formed in the channel layer 112 may be used as a current path (channel) between the source electrode 151 and the drain electrode 152. The source electrode 151 and the drain electrode 152 may be formed on the channel supply layer 114 or may be formed in the channel supply layer 114 or the channel layer 112 up to an intermediate depth. Alternatively, the arrangement of the source electrode 151 and the drain electrode 152 may be modified in various manners.

At least one depletion forming unit 130 may be formed on a portion of the channel supply layer 114 between the source electrode 151 and the drain electrode 152. For example, at least one depletion forming unit 130 may be formed on a portion of the channel supply layer 114 between the gate electrode 121 and the source electrode 151, but example embodiments are not limited thereto. The depletion forming unit 130 may perform the function of forming a depletion region in the 2DEG. Due to the depletion forming unit 130, a conduction band energy and a valence band energy of a portion of the channel supply layer 114 disposed below may be increased, and as a result, a depletion region of 2DEG may be formed in a portion of the channel layer 112 corresponding to the depletion forming unit 130. Accordingly, in a portion of the channel layer 112 corresponding to the depletion forming unit 130, 2DEG may be removed or an amount thereof may be reduced. Alternatively, the portion of the channel layer 112 corresponding to the depletion forming unit 130 may have different characteristics from the other portion of the channel layer 112 (e.g., electron density). A portion where the 2DEG is removed may be referred to as a 'cut-off region', and the HEMT 100 may have normally-off characteristics due to this cut-off region.

The depletion forming unit 130 may include a p-type semiconductor material. That is, the depletion forming unit 130 may be a semiconductor layer doped with a p-type impurity. Also, the depletion forming unit 130 may include a III-V group nitride semiconductor. For example, the depletion forming unit 130 may include at least one of GaN, AlGa_N, InN, AlInN, InGa_N, and AlInGa_N, and may be doped with a p-type impurity, such as Mg. For example, the depletion forming unit 130 may be a p-GaN layer or a p-AlGa_N layer. Due to the depletion forming unit 130, a conduction band energy and a valence band energy of a portion of the channel supply layer 114 below may increase so as to form a cut-off region of 2DEG.

The depletion forming unit 130 may be, for example, in the form of a strip. A depletion forming unit 130 or a plurality of depletion forming units 130 may be formed between the source electrode 151 and the drain electrode 152, and at least one gate electrode 121 may be formed on the depletion forming unit 130. A gate electrode 121 or a plurality of gate electrodes 121 may be formed to correspond to the number of the depletion forming unit 130. In FIG. 1, one depletion forming unit 130 and one gate electrode 121 are included.

The gate electrode 121 may include various metal materials or metal compounds. The gate electrode 121 may have the same width as that of the depletion forming unit 130. However, the gate electrode 121 is not limited thereto, and the gate electrode 121 may have a different width from that of the depletion forming unit 130.

At least one bridge 141 connecting the depletion forming unit 130 and the source electrode 151 may be formed between the depletion forming unit 130 and the source electrode 151. The bridge 141 may be formed of the same material as the depletion forming unit 130. The bridge 141 may include, for example, a p-type semiconductor material. The bridge 141 may include a III-V nitride semiconductor. For example, the bridge 141 may include at least one of GaN, AlGa_N, InN, AlInN, InGa_N, and AlInGa_N, and may be doped with a p-type impurity, such as Mg. For example, the bridge 141 may be a p-GaN layer of a p-AlGa_N layer.

Referring to FIG. 2, a contact portion 141a extending from the bridge 141 under the source electrode 151 may be formed. The contact portion 141a may be in the source electrode 151. The contact portion 141a may be formed of the same material as the bridge 141. The contact portion 141a may include, for example, a p-type semiconductor material. The bridge 141 may include a III-V nitride semiconductor. For example, the bridge 141 may include at least one of GaN, AlGa_N, InN, AlInN, InGa_N, and AlInGa_N, and may be doped with a p-type impurity, such as Mg. For example, the bridge 141 may be a p-GaN layer of a p-AlGa_N layer.

The contact portion 141a may have the same width as the bridge 141. However, the contact portion 141a is not limited thereto and may have various widths and shapes. The contact portion 141a may have an increased contact surface with respect to the source electrode 151 to reduce a dispersion in a threshold voltage.

The depletion forming unit 130, the bridge 141, and the contact portion 141a may be formed as a single body. In this case, the depletion forming unit 130, the bridge 141, and the contact portion 141a may have the same height.

However, example embodiments are not limited thereto, and the depletion forming unit 130 and the bridge 141 may have the same height or different heights. The bridge 141 and the contact portion 141b may have the same height or different heights.

As illustrated in FIG. 6, a contact resistance portion 122 may be further disposed under or inside the source electrode 151. The contact resistance portion 122 may be formed on the contact portion 141a. The contact resistance portion 122 may increase contact resistance.

While the contact portion 141a has the same width as that of the bridge 141 in FIG. 2, as illustrated in FIG. 7, a contact portion 141b may have a greater width than that of the bridge 141. Also, the shape or size of the contact portion 141b may be modified in various manners. For example, the contact portion 141b may be formed to vertically extend under the source electrode 151 (a vertical direction in FIG. 7).

As illustrated in FIG. 8, a buffer layer 111 may be further formed between the channel layer 112 and the substrate 110. The buffer layer 111 may be formed to mitigate differences in

lattice constants and coefficients of thermal expansion of the substrate **110** and the channel layer **112** to thereby reduce crystallinity of the channel layer **112**. The buffer layer **111** may be formed of, for example, AlN, GaN, AlGaIn, AlInN, or AlGaInN. The buffer layer **111** may include a single layer or a plurality of layers. For example, when the buffer layer **111** includes aluminum (Al), an Al content (atom %) may be 0% to about 70%. According to circumstances, a seed layer (not shown) may be further formed between the substrate **110** and the buffer layer **111**. The seed layer may be a base layer for growing the buffer layer **111**. The substrate **110** and the buffer layer **111** may be removed during or after the manufacture of a HEMT. In other words, the substrate **110** and the buffer layer **111** may be selectively included in a HEMT.

FIG. 9 illustrates a HEMT in which a plurality of bridges are formed compared to the HEMT **100** illustrated in FIG. 1, according to another example embodiment. For example, a first bridge **141** and a second bridge **142** connecting a depletion forming unit **130** and a source electrode **151** are formed, and a first contact portion **141a** and a second contact portion **142a** respectively extending from the first bridge **141** and the second bridge **142** under the source electrode **151** may be formed. As described above, the number and pattern of bridges and contact portions may be modified in various manners.

FIG. 10 is a schematic perspective view illustrating a HEMT **200** according to another example embodiment. FIG. 11 is a plan view illustrating the HEMT **200** of FIG. 10. FIG. 12 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the HEMT **200** cut along line XII-XII' of FIG. 11. FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional view illustrating the HEMT **200** cut along line XIII-XIII' of FIG. 11. Hereinafter, description will focus on differences from the above-described some example embodiments.

A channel layer **212** and a channel supply layer **214** are formed on a substrate **210**. A source electrode **251** and a drain electrode **252** may be formed at both sides of the channel supply layer **214**. Lower surfaces of the source electrode **251** and the drain electrode **252** may contact an upper surface of the channel layer **212** or may be disposed at a lower position than the upper surface of the channel layer **212**, or may contact an upper surface of the channel supply layer **214** or may be disposed at a lower position than the upper surface of the channel supply layer **214**. The lower surfaces of the source electrode **251** and the drain electrode **252** may be disposed at the same height. Alternatively, the source electrode **251** and the drain electrode **252** may be disposed at different heights. The channel layer **212**, the channel supply layer **214**, the source electrode **251**, and the drain electrode **252** are substantially the same as those corresponding elements described with reference to FIG. 1, and thus, detailed descriptions thereof are omitted.

For example, a first depletion forming unit **231** may be formed on the channel supply layer **214** between the source electrode **251** and the drain electrode **252**. A second depletion forming unit **232** that is separated from the first depletion forming unit **231** may be formed between the first depletion forming unit **231** and the source electrode **251**. For example, the first depletion forming unit **231** and the second depletion forming unit **232** may be separately arranged in parallel. At least one bridge connecting the first depletion forming unit **231** and the second depletion forming unit **232** may be formed. The at least one bridge may include, for example, a first bridge **241** and a second bridge **242**. The first bridge **241** and the second bridge **242** may be in the form of a strip, and may be separated from each other. For example, the first bridge **241** and the second bridge **242** may be separately arranged in parallel.

At least one bridge connecting the second depletion forming unit **232** and the source electrode **251** may be formed. The at least one bridge may include, for example, a third bridge **243** and a fourth bridge **244**. The third bridge **243** and the fourth bridge **244** may be in the form of a strip and may be separately separated from each other. For example, the third bridge **243** and the fourth bridge **244** may be arranged in parallel. However, the number, shape, and arrangement of bridges are not limited thereto, and any modification of the bridges may be possible as long as the bridges connect depletion forming units or connect a depletion forming unit and a source electrode.

A first contact portion **243a** extending from the third bridge **243** under the source electrode **251** may be formed, and a second contact portion **244a** extending from the fourth bridge **244** under the source electrode **251** may be formed. A contact portion may be formed for each bridge connected to a source electrode. Alternatively, when a plurality of bridges are connected to a source electrode, a contact portion may be selectively formed for each of the bridges. Also, a plurality of contact portions respectively formed for a plurality of bridges may be separated from one another. However, example embodiments are not limited thereto, and a plurality of contact portions that are formed for a plurality of bridges may also be connected to one another.

A first gate electrode **221** may be formed on the first depletion forming unit **231**. The first gate electrode **221** may be disposed closer to the source electrode **251** than to the drain electrode **252**. However, this is a non-limiting example, and a position of the first gate electrode **221** may be modified in various manners.

A second gate electrode **222** may be formed on the second depletion forming unit **232** between the source electrode **251** and the first gate electrode **221**. The second gate electrode **222** may be separated from the first gate electrode **221** by a desired (and/or alternatively predetermined) distance. The second gate electrode **222** may include the same material as the first gate electrode **221**. However, the second gate electrode **222** is not limited thereto. The second gate electrode **222** may not be included on the second depletion forming unit **232**. That is, the second gate electrode **222** may be selectively included. The source electrode **251** and the second gate electrode **222** and the second gate electrode **222** and the first gate electrode **221** may be respectively electrically connected to each other via the first and second depletion forming units **231** and **232** or via the first to fourth bridges **241** to **244**.

According to an example embodiment, the second gate electrode **222** is a floating electrode in which a second gate voltage is induced according to a first gate voltage applied to the first gate electrode **221**. A lower voltage than a voltage applied to the first gate electrode **221** may be induced in the second gate electrode **222**. A second gate voltage induced in the second electrode **222** may be determined according to the first gate voltage applied to the first gate electrode **221**, an interval between the first gate electrode **221** and the second gate electrode **222**, and an interval between the source electrode **251** and the second gate electrode **222**. The second gate electrode **222**, which is a floating electrode, performs the function of increasing a threshold voltage of the HEMT **200**, and a threshold voltage of the HEMT **200** may be determined according to the second gate voltage induced in the second gate electrode **222**.

FIGS. 14A through 14C are schematic views for explaining an operation of the HEMT **200** of FIG. 10, according to an example embodiment. Here, a desired (and/or alternatively predetermined) source voltage V_s and a desired (and/or alternatively predetermined) drain voltage V_d may be respectively

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applied to the source electrode **251** and the drain electrode **252**. When a first gate voltage V_{g1} is applied to the first gate electrode **221**, an interval between the first gate electrode **221** and the second gate electrode **222** is L_{fg} , and an interval between the source electrode **251** and the second gate electrode **222** is L_{sf} . A second gate voltage V_{g2} induced in the second gate electrode **222** may approximately be $V_{g1} \times L_{sf} / (L_{fg} + L_{sf})$. The second gate voltage V_{g2} may be adjusted by varying positions of the first gate electrode **221** and/or the second gate electrode **222**.

FIG. **14A** illustrates a case where the first gate voltage V_{g1} applied to the first gate electrode **221** is smaller than the first threshold voltage V_{th1} . The first threshold voltage V_{th1} refers to a minimum voltage needed to set channels (and/or configure channels) under the first and second gate electrodes **221** and **222** in an on state. Referring to FIG. **14A**, when the first gate voltage V_{g1} applied to the first gate electrode **221** is smaller than the first threshold voltage V_{th1} , the second gate voltage V_{g2} induced in the second gate electrode is also smaller than the first threshold voltage V_{th1} . Accordingly, a first channel **221a** formed under the first gate electrode **221** and a second channel **222a** formed under the second gate electrode **222** are both in an off state.

FIG. **14B** illustrates a case where the first gate voltage V_{g1} applied to the first gate electrode **221** is greater than the first threshold voltage V_{th1} but smaller than a second threshold voltage V_{th2} ($V_{th1} < V_{g1} < V_{th2}$). The second threshold voltage V_{th2} is $V_{th1} \times (L_{fg} + L_{sf}) / L_{sf}$. Referring to FIG. **14B**, when the first gate voltage V_{g1} applied to the first gate electrode **221** is greater than the first threshold voltage V_{th1} , and is smaller than the second threshold voltage V_{th2} , the second gate voltage V_{g2} induced in the second gate electrode **222** is smaller than the first threshold voltage V_{th1} . Accordingly, the first channel **221a** formed under the first gate electrode **221** is in an on state but the second channel **222a** formed under the second gate electrode **222** is in an off state.

FIG. **14C** illustrates a case where the first gate voltage V_{g1} applied to the first gate electrode **221** is greater than the second threshold voltage V_{th2} . Referring to FIG. **14C**, when the first gate voltage V_{g1} applied to the first gate electrode **221** is greater than the second threshold voltage V_{th2} , the second gate voltage V_{g2} induced in the second gate electrode **222** is greater than the first threshold voltage V_{th1} . Accordingly, the first channel **221a** formed under the first gate electrode **221** and the second channel **222a** formed under the second gate electrode **222** are both in an on state, and as a result, a current flows through the channel layer **212** of the HEMT **200**.

As described above, the HEMT **200** according to an example embodiment may have normally-off characteristics. Also, the HEMT **200** may include the second gate electrode **222**, which is a floating electrode, between the source electrode **251** and the first gate electrode **221**, and a threshold voltage V_{th} of the HEMT **200** may be increased from the first threshold voltage V_{th1} to the second threshold voltage V_{th2} . In addition, the threshold voltage V_{th} of the HEMT **200** may be adjusted by varying positions of the first gate electrode **221** and/or the second gate electrode **222**.

Also, although a single second gate electrode **222** is formed between the source electrode **251** and the first gate electrode **221** as described above, a plurality of second gate electrodes **222** may also be formed between the source electrode **251** and the first gate electrode **221**.

Next, FIG. **15** is a graph schematically showing contact resistance between a depletion forming unit and a source electrode of a HEMT having a double gate structure including first and second gate electrodes without a contact portion, according to an example embodiment.

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A first gate voltage V_g between a first gate electrode and a source electrode may be represented by Formula 1 below:

$$V_g = i \cdot (R_{c,G} + R_g + R_{ch1} + R_{fg} + R_{ch2} + R_{c,S}) \quad \text{<Formula 1>}$$

Here, i denotes a current, $R_{c,G}$ denotes a contact resistance of the first gate electrode, R_g denotes a first channel resistance under a first gate, R_{ch1} denotes a second channel resistance between the first gate electrode and a second gate electrode, R_{fg} denotes a third channel resistance under the second gate electrode, R_{ch2} denotes a fourth channel resistance between the second gate electrode and the source electrode, and $R_{c,S}$ denotes a resistance of the source electrode.

A voltage V_{fg} between the second gate electrode and the source electrode may approximately be as defined by Formula 2:

$$V_{fg} = i \cdot (R_{fg} / 2 + R_{ch2} + R_{c,S}) \quad \text{<Formula 2>}$$

Here, $(R_{fg} / 2)$ denotes that the third channel resistance under the second gate electrode contributes to about $1/2$ with respect to the voltage between the second gate electrode and the source electrode.

Next, a dispersion (ΔV_{fg}) of the voltage V_{fg} is as follows:

$$\Delta V_{fg} \propto \Delta R_{fg} / 2 + \Delta R_{ch2} + \Delta R_{c,S} \quad \text{<Formula 3>}$$

$$\Delta R_{ch2} = f(t_{bridge}^{-1}) \quad \text{<Formula 4>}$$

$$\Delta R_{c,S} = f(A_{source/bridge}^{-1}) \quad \text{<Formula 5>}$$

The dispersion (ΔV_{fg}) of the voltage V_{fg} may be generated by dispersions of R_{ch2} and $R_{c,G}$. The dispersion of R_{ch2} is a value that is inversely proportional to a bridge thickness, and dispersion according to contact resistance is inversely proportional to a source electrode and a bridge surface area.

According to the above formulae, R_{ch2} and $R_{c,S}$ may be the main reason of dispersion of a threshold voltage. Accordingly, by increasing a surface area of the bridge between the second gate electrode and the source electrode and a surface area of the contact portion under the source electrode, dispersion of a threshold voltage may be reduced.

FIGS. **16** through **18** illustrate modified examples of patterns of at least one bridge and at least one contact portion of the HEMT **200** illustrated in FIG. **10**, according to other some example embodiments. Referring to FIG. **16**, a first bridge **2411** is formed between the first depletion forming unit **231** and the second depletion forming unit **232**, and a second bridge **2412** is formed between the second depletion forming unit **232** and the source electrode **251**. Also, a contact portion **2412a** extending from the second bridge **2412** under the source electrode **251** may be formed. The contact portion **2412a** may have a greater width than the second bridge **2412**.

Referring to FIG. **17**, first and second bridges **2421** and **2422** may be formed between the first depletion forming unit **231** and the second depletion forming unit **232**, and third to fifth bridges **2423** to **2425** may be formed between the second depletion forming unit **232** and the source electrode **251**. Also, a first contact portion **2423a**, a second contact portion **2424a**, and a third contact portion **2425a** respectively extending from the third, fourth, and fifth bridges **2423**, **2424**, and **2425** under the second electrode **251** may be formed.

Referring to FIG. **18**, first and second bridges **2431** and **2432** may be formed between the first depletion forming unit **231** and the second depletion forming unit **232**, and a third bridge **2433** may be formed between the second depletion forming unit **232** and the source electrode **251**. Also, a contact portion **2433a** extending from the third bridge **2433** under the source electrode **251** may be formed. The contact portion **2433a** may extend to a side edge of the source electrode **251** or to an inner portion of the source electrode **251**. As

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described above, a depletion forming unit, a bridge, and a contact portion may be formed in various patterns.

FIG. 19 illustrates the HEMT of FIG. 12 from which the second gate electrode 222 is removed. As illustrated in FIG. 19, the second gate electrode 222 may not be formed on the second depletion forming unit 232. For example, while providing the structures as illustrated in FIGS. 16 through 18, a HEMT may also be formed without the second gate electrode 222. Alternatively, although not illustrated in the drawings, a contact resistance unit (not shown) may be further formed under or inside the source electrode 251 in the HEMTs illustrated in FIGS. 16 through 18 (see FIG. 6).

FIGS. 20 through 28 illustrate a method of manufacturing a HEMT, according to an example embodiment.

As illustrated in FIG. 20, a substrate 305, a channel layer 310, and a channel supply layer 312 are stacked. A buffer layer 307 may be further included between the substrate 305 and the channel layer 310.

The substrate 305 may include, for example, sapphire, Si, SiC, or GaN. The channel layer 310 may be formed of a III-V compound semiconductor material, but it is not limited thereto. For example, the channel layer 310 may be formed as a GaN-based material layer. For example, the channel layer 310 may be formed as an undoped GaN layer, an undoped InGaN layer, or an undoped AlGaIn layer. The channel supply layer 312 may include, for example, a nitride including at least one of Al, Ga, and In, and may have a single layer structure or a multi-layer structure. For example, the channel supply layer 312 may be an AlN layer, an AlGaIn layer, an AlInN layer, an AlGaInN layer, or a combination of these. The substrate 305, the buffer layer 307, the channel layer 310, and the channel supply layer 312 may be substantially the same as the corresponding elements described above.

A first layer 314 for a depletion unit may be stacked on the channel supply layer 312. The first layer 314 may include, for example, a p-type semiconductor material. The first layer 314 may include a III-V nitride semiconductor. For example, the first layer 314 may include at least one of GaN, AlGaIn, InN, AlInN, InGaIn, and AlInGaIn, and may be doped with a p-type impurity, such as Mg. For example, the first layer 314 may be a p-GaN layer or a p-AlGaIn layer. A passivation layer (not shown) may be further formed between the channel supply layer 312 and the first layer 314 for a depletion unit.

As illustrated in FIG. 21, a depletion unit 314a may be formed by patterning and etching the first layer 314. The depletion unit 314a may include at least one depletion forming unit, at least one bridge, and at least one contact portion as illustrated in FIG. 22. The at least one depletion forming unit may include, for example, a first depletion forming unit 314a-1 and a second depletion forming unit 314a-2, and the at least one bridge may include a first bridge and a second bridge 314a-3 that connect the first depletion forming unit 314a-1 and the second depletion forming unit 314a-2, and third and fourth bridges 314a-3 formed at a side of the second depletion forming unit 314a-2. Also, a contact portion 314a-4 extending from each of the third and fourth bridges may be formed.

Referring to FIG. 23, a second layer 316 is stacked to cover the depletion unit 314a and the exposed channel supply layer 312. The second layer 316 may be formed of various metals or metal compounds. For example, the second layer 316 may be formed of at least one material selected from the group consisting of W, Ta, TaN, TiN, Ti, Al, Ti/Al, Hf, and the like. Also, as illustrated in FIG. 24, the second layer 316 may be patterned according to the pattern of the at least one of the depletion forming units 321 and 322 and etched so as to form a first gate electrode 321 and a second gate electrode 322.

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Then, as illustrated in FIG. 25, a third layer 325 is stacked on a structure illustrated in FIG. 24. The third layer 325 may be formed of a nitride or an oxide. The third layer 325 may be used as a passivation layer to electrically separate a source electrode and a drain electrode from each other, which are to be formed later. Referring to FIG. 26, the third layer 325 is etched to form a source area 351a and a drain area 352a. Next, as illustrated in FIG. 27, a fourth layer 330 is stacked on the third layer 325. The fourth layer 330 may be formed of the same material as the second layer 316 but it is not limited thereto. Referring to FIG. 28, the fourth layer 330 may be patterned and etched to form a source electrode 351 and a drain electrode 352. The source electrode 351 may be formed to cover the contact portion 314a. The source electrode 351 and the drain electrode 352 may be formed to contact the channel supply layer 312. However, the source electrode 351 and the drain electrode 352 are not limited thereto, and a source electrode and a drain electrode may be formed by etching two sides of the channel supply layer 312 until the channel layer 310 is exposed or by further performing an operation of etching the channel supply layer 312 only up to a desired (and/or alternatively predetermined) depth thereof such that the channel layer 310 is not exposed, thereby adjusting positions of lower surfaces of the source electrode 351 and the drain electrode 352. At least a portion of the lower surface of the source electrode 351 or at least a portion of a lower concave surface of the source electrode 351 may electrically contact the contact portion 314a.

As described above, according to one or more example embodiments, by increasing a contact surface area with respect to the source electrode by using a bridge and a contact portion, the dispersion of a threshold voltage may be reduced.

It should be understood that the example embodiments described herein should be considered in a descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation. Descriptions of features or aspects within each HEMT according to an example embodiment should typically be considered as available for other similar features or aspects in other HEMTs according to other example embodiments.

While some example embodiments have been particularly shown and described, it will be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that variations in form and detail may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A high electron mobility transistor (HEMT) comprising:
 - a channel supply layer on a channel layer,
 - the channel layer including a first semiconductor material;
 - the channel supply layer including a second semiconductor material, and
 - the channel supply layer configured to generate a two-dimensional electron gas (2DEG) in the channel layer;
 - a source electrode and a drain electrode separated from each other and connected to the channel supply layer;
 - a depletion forming unit on the channel supply layer, the depletion forming unit configured to form a depletion region in the 2DEG;
 - a gate electrode on the depletion forming unit;
 - a bridge that connects the source electrode to the depletion forming unit; and
 - a contact portion that extends from the bridge to under or into the source electrode,
- wherein the depletion forming unit is located to be separated from each of the source electrode and drain electrode.

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2. The HEMT of claim 1, wherein a width of the contact portion is the same as or different than a width of the bridge.

3. HEMT of claim 1, comprising:

a plurality of depletion forming units on the channel supply layer, the plurality of depletion forming units including a first depletion forming unit and a second depletion forming unit that are separated from each other; and

a plurality of gate electrodes, the plurality of gate electrodes including a first gate electrode on the first depletion forming unit and a second gate electrode on the second depletion forming unit.

4. The HEMT of claim 3, comprising:

a plurality of bridges on the channel supplying layer, the plurality of bridges including a first bridge, a second bridge, and a third bridge;

a plurality of contact portions, the plurality of contact portions including a first contact portion and a second contact portion, wherein

the second contact portion and the second bridge are the contact portion and the bridge of the contact portion that extends from the bridge to under the source electrode, the third bridge connects the first depletion forming unit to the second depletion forming unit, the first bridge connects the second depletion forming unit to the source electrode, and

the first contact portion extends from the first bridge to under the source electrode.

5. The HEMT of claim 3, wherein

the second gate electrode is a floating electrode, and the first gate electrode, if a first gate voltage is applied to the first gate electrode, is configured to induce a second gate voltage in the second gate electrode.

6. The HEMT of claim 3, wherein a second gate voltage induced in the second gate electrode is determined by a first gate voltage applied to the first gate electrode, an interval between the first gate electrode and the second gate electrode, and another interval between the second gate electrode and the source electrode.

7. The HEMT of claim 1, further comprising:

a thin film between the source electrode and the contact portion.

8. The HEMT of claim 1, wherein the first semiconductor material is a GaN-based material.

9. The HEMT of claim 1, wherein the second semiconductor material comprises a nitride including at least one of Al, Ga, and In.

10. The HEMT of claim 1, wherein the second semiconductor material is doped with an n-type material.

11. The HEMT of claim 1, further comprising:

a buffer layer, wherein

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the buffer layer comprises at least one of a GaN layer, an AlGaIn layer, an AlN layer, and an InN layer, and the channel layer is on the buffer layer.

12. The HEMT of claim 1, wherein the depletion forming unit comprises a p-type semiconductor material.

13. The HEMT of claim 12, wherein the depletion forming unit comprises a III-V nitride semiconductor material.

14. The HEMT of claim 1, wherein a single body includes the depletion forming unit, the bridge, and the contact portion.

15. The HEMT of claim 1, further comprising:

a passivation layer on the channel supply layer.

16. The HEMT of claim 1, wherein the bridge is not provided between the depletion forming unit and the drain electrode.

17. A high electron mobility transistor (HEMT) comprising:

a channel supply layer on a channel layer,

the channel layer including a first semiconductor material;

the channel supply layer including a second semiconductor material, and

the channel supply layer configured to generate a two-dimensional electron gas (2DEG) in the channel layer;

a source electrode and a drain electrode separated from each other and connected to the channel supply layer;

a depletion forming unit on the channel supply layer, the depletion forming unit configured to form a depletion region in the 2DEG;

a gate electrode on the depletion forming unit;

a bridge that connects the source electrode to the depletion forming unit;

a contact portion that extends from the bridge to under or into the source electrode;

a plurality of bridges that connect the source electrode to the depletion forming unit, the plurality of bridges including a first bridge and a second bridge between the depletion forming unit and the source electrode;

a plurality of contact portions that extend from the bridge to under or into the source electrode, the plurality of contact portions including a first contact portion and a second portion, wherein

the first contact portion extends from an end portion of the first bridge to under the source electrode,

the second contact portion extends from an end portion of the second bridge to under the source electrode, and

the first contact portion and the first bridge are the contact portion and the bridge of the contact portion that extends from the bridge to under the source electrode.

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